

PROCEEDINGS

of a

MILITARY COURT FOR THE
TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

held at

LUNEBURG, GERMANY,

on

WEDNESDAY, 10 OCTOBER, 1945,

upon the trial of

JOSEF KRAMER

and

44 Others.

T W E N T Y F I R S T D A Y .

Transcript of the Official
Shorthand Notes.

(At 0930 hours the Court re-assembles pursuant to adjournment, the same President, Members, and Judge Advocate being present)

JOSEF KRAMER is recalled on his former oath and re-examined by MAJOR WINWOOD as follows:-

- Q You were asked yesterday if you believed in God ? A. Yes.
- Q Do you believe in Germany ? A. Yes.
- Q You were also asked yesterday if it was part of the doctrine of your Party to exterminate the Jewish Race ? A. It was a part of it.
- Q Was your Party the government of Germany ? A. Yes.
- Q Did that Party come into power in 1933 ? A. Yes, on the 30th January.
- Q Did that government remain in power until the end of the European war ? A. Yes.
- Q Was that government recognised by all the civilised countries of the world ? A. I believe so.
- Q Was Adolf Hitler the head of that government ? A. Yes.
- Q Was Heinrich Himmler a member of that government ? A. Yes.
- Q Was Himmler entrusted with the internal security of Germany ? A. Yes.
- Q Who was the head of the Waffen SS ? A. The highest commandant of the Wehrmacht was also the head of the Waffen SS. Himmler was the head inside Germany.
- Q In your humble position which you held in Germany, what is your opinion of an order from Himmler ? A. As I said already yesterday, Himmler was my highest chief, and any order emanating from him had to be naturally executed. Any other opinion simply did not exist, and not to execute a military order was quite out of the question.
- Q You said yesterday in answer to the prosecutor that transports were coming in in the summer of 1944, for a short period of approximately a fortnight, day and night ? A. Yes.
- Q Where did they come from ? A. From Hungary.
- Q This question was put to you: Did you prefer to be a party to wholesale murder rather than to be arrested yourself. A. Yes.
- Q Have you heard of the atomic bomb ? A. Yes, lately from the papers.
- THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: What have we to do with the atomic bomb, Major Winwood ?
- MAJOR WINWOOD: Nothing. (To the witness) We heard yesterday of a strength return which was produced by the prosecution giving a list of the numbers of women internees at Belsen ? A. Yes.
- Q To what office were those strength returns sent ? A. To Oranienburg.

- Q Where were the strength returns for the male internees sent ? A. Also to Oranienburg. Two separate strength returns went for the internees, one for men and one for women. They were sent to Oranienburg.
- Q It was put to you that you never did anything to help these people in the camp with regard to food and other conditions. A. Yes.
- Q Did you ever do anything against the regulations to get food for the internees ? A. I said already yesterday that I tried with several private firms to get more food supplies. I know that all these letters and also the answers to those letters were amongst my private correspondence, and I know that they are now in the hands of the military authorities. I know it because during my interrogation at Celle prison I saw one of those letters in the hands of the British interrogating officer.
- Q It was put to you yesterday that you should have gone to the general at the Wehrmacht barracks and put the whole position to him and ask him to help. A. Yes.
- Q Will you tell the court what difficulties, if any, there were in a *Hauptsturmführer* in the SS going and visiting a general in the Wehrmacht in March or April of 1945 ? A. I do not think there would have been any particular difficulties in seeing him. I should have let myself be announced, and I do not think he would not have seen me. But if I would have mentioned any sort of request for food supplies, his answer would have been in the negative, because those food reserves in the stores of the Wehrmacht were destined only for members of the Wehrmacht; and even if there had been some sort of possibility of help, I am rather in doubt if they would have helped me.
- THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Josef Kramer, I think you have been connected with concentration camps for about ten years; is that right ? A. Yes.
- Q From your experience did you form the view, at any rate, in the war years that, for instance, a sick or infirm Polish Jew was bound to die as part of the policy of the German Reich ? A. No.
- Q Of what use to the German Reich was a sick or infirm Polish Jew or Jewess ? A. I do not know; I had nothing to do with the reasons why those people were sent in to my camp. I was there and I received them. Why they were sent to me I do not know. It had nothing to do with me. Whether it was a political enemy or a Jew or a professional criminal had nothing to do with me at all. I received the bodies that was all.
- Q When you were told that Belzen was to become a camp for sick Jews, did you realise unless it was properly fitted up the sick Jews who went there must inevitably die ? A. It was not only a question for the camp for Jews; it was a question of sick prisoners, and when in January Lolling came to inspect my camp I told him that if this camp should become a camp for sick prisoners, I should need more doctors, more medical supplies, more beds, blankets, and so on. In my report from the 1st March I pointed out that I needed help because otherwise the people under those existing conditions would inevitably die.
- Q When a Jew was gassed and cremated at Auschwitz, was any official record made in the records of the country of that person's death ? A. I do not know; I do not think so, because all these things were done in Auschwitz No.1 - done by the Political Department of that camp. Therefore, I cannot say.

- Q When a Polish Jew died at Belsen was any record made - any official documents recording his death? A. Yes, it was done until the day when I got orders that all the official documents had to be destroyed. Then it was not done any more. I did not know ~~very~~ many details, but I tried to get at least his or her name and the very most important facts. That had been done until the day this order arrived.
- Q In Belsen if anybody died did you have enquiries made how they came to die? A. Not I, but it was the doctors who did. They had to see the reasons for that person's death and had to certify through his signature.
- Q While you were serving did you receive any rewards or promotions for your services to the Reich? A. Before the war I held the rank of Obersturmführer which, I believe is the equivalent to a lieutenant, and during the war I was promoted to Hauptsturmführer - in 1942 - and that, I believe, is a captain. The decorations which I received were the Kriegsverdienstkreuz, 1st and 2nd Class.
- Q Is that one decoration or two? A. Two.
- Q When did you get them? A. The Kriegsverdienstkreuz 2, which is the lower one, in the summer of 1942 and the Kriegsverdienstkreuz 1, on the 30th January 1945. This Kriegsverdienstkreuz 2 I got when I was Lagerführer and also the promotion. Then when I was camp commandant I was not promoted any more, but I got this decoration Kriegsverdienstkreuz No. 1.

A MEMBER OF THE COURT: Can you tell us what was the normal system of rationing at concentration camps apart altogether from any emergency that may have arisen in March and April? A. I do not know the exact ration system, but I can say that compared with the rations of the civilian population it was approximately three-quarters of the amount a civilian got.

- Q Did the camp authorities put in indents for their requirements? A. Yes.
- Q To whom did they put them? A. To the Wirtsehaftsamt at Celle, and they gave me the ration cards for them.
- Q Were the camp authorities those responsible for making the contracts for food supplies? A. The firms with whom we had to deal were already given through the Wirtsehaftsamt. They put those firms on to us, and there were firms who were delivering already in former times to the camp, and that was carried on.

THE PRESIDENT: Major Winwood, have you any further points to raise on that?

MAJOR WINWOOD: No.

THE WITNESS: I would like to add one single word about the question of supplies.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

THE WITNESS: In March on my own responsibility I distributed more potatoes than the ration system would have allowed me to do. I gave orders that these potatoes should be added to the normal food so that the food should be stronger and more nourishing. But at the end of the month of March I had to cease with this practice because there were not more potatoes.

And now I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the defending officers for what they have done for me and the others, and I am sure it will enable the court to give just and fair judgment.

(The accused, Joseph Kramer, leaves the place from which he has given his evidence)

Mrs. ROSINA KRAMER is called in and having been duly sworn is examined by MAJOR WINWOOD as follows:-

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: This witness will give her evidence in German and she informs me that the oath she has taken will be binding on her conscience.

MAJOR WINWOOD: (To the witness) What is your full name ? A. Rosina Kramer.

- Q Are you the wife of Joseph Kramer ? A. Yes.
- Q When did you marry Joseph Kramer ? A. On the 16th October 1937.
- Q Since that time have you been with him in his duty ? A. With short intervals I have been always with him. Of course, when he was on duty he was in the camp.
- Q Did you ever go inside the concentration camp ? A. Yes, but it was sort of off duty, on Sundays.
- Q Were you with him when he went to Auschwitz in 1944 ? A. Yes, I arrived two weeks afterwards.
- Q Do you know who was the commandant of Berkenau before your husband took over ? A. Sturmbannfuhrer Hartjenstein.
- Q Did you have any conversations with Hartjenstein before your husband went to Berkenau ? A. Not before, but three days after my husband took over that happened at Natzweiler.
- Q What did he say to you ? A. I asked him why especially my husband was chosen for Auschwitz. His answer was because the rank of my husband was Hauptsturmfuhrer and Hartjenstein was Sturmbannfuhrer, a higher rank, so in Auschwitz as he would perform the duties of second in command, therefore the rank Hauptsturmfuhrer was right..
- Q Why could not have Hartjenstein with the rank of Sturmbannfuhrer remained at Berkenau ? A. Bayer was sent to Auschwitz. It was a general change of commands. It was a policy of Berlin that every two years commands had to be changed over.
- Q Who became commandant of Auschwitz No.1 ? A. Bayer and Obersturmfuhrer Hoess, the Standardaltester. Obersturmfuhrer Hoess was sent also to Auschwitz and he was responsible for the transports, I suppose, the gas, or something like that.
- Q Do you know of your own knowledge why Hoess was sent to Auschwitz ? A. I believe for the incoming transports.
- Q Did your husband ever talk to you about what happened in Auschwitz ? A. Later on he spoke to me. One evening he said: "Those who are responsible for the lives who are being destroyed now, I do not think have very easy sleep" or "do not sleep lightly".
- Q Did you go eventually to Belsen ? A. Yes, four weeks later.

- Q When did you arrive at Belsen, in which month ? A On the 30th December.
- Q Did you ever go into Belsen camp ? A One Sunday afternoon I went in into the weberi, into the place where they were weaving, and my husband told me with great pride about the beautiful orchestra which was playing. He wanted to show me that.
- Q Was there in fact a camp band at Belsen ? A Yes, there was a band, but they had no instruments, so in the meantime my husband wanted that the instruments from Auschwitz should be sent to Belsen, and then he asked the S.S. people in Belsen to lend their instruments so that these girls should at least be able to play something.
- Q Will you answer my questions and not run on ? A Yes.
- Q Did the S.S. lend their instruments to the camp ? A Yes.
- Q Did a girl called Anita Lasker play in this orchestra ? A I do not know any names.
- Q Did your husband ever speak to you about the food in Belsen ? A I was present at a conversation between my husband and Vogler, the official who was responsible for the food, and I remember that my husband said: "What those people get is not enough to live on and too much to die".
- Q Did he ever speak to you about the hospital or medical supplies or doctors ? A Yes. I remember one evening about half past 11 he came home. It was just after an air raid alarm and he was walking, pacing up and down, always asking: "Why, why, why", and then he said: "Now the truck or railway waggon which I was expecting for the last three months, I just hear that it has been bombed to pieces in Hanover and I have not a bit of bandaging material or dressing material".
- Q Did that waggon, as far as you know, contain medical supplies ? A Yes, it was mainly dressing material and it was meant for the hospital.
- Q Did you or your husband have any social contact with the Wehrmacht in the barracks ? A No, he had no time, anyway, because he was on duty night and day.
- Q Did the other members of his staff, men or women, ever come to your own house socially in the evening ? A Once. Once one evening Vogler came and Dr. Horstmann came.
- Q Have you ever heard of your husband ill-treating anybody while at Belsen ? A No.
- Q Do you know what your husband's opinion was about his duty to the internees at Belsen ? A Yes. He told me his duty was to take care of them and that is what he had been doing the whole time, night and day. I remember he came once between duty hours and spoke with me and with my children, that was his all, his own treasure, and he said: "If I could find anything so that those people should not lie on the bare floor", and then he gave orders to see that some fern plants should be collected so that these people should have something.

MAJOR MUNRO: No questions.

MAJOR CRANFIELD: No questions.

CAPTAIN ROBERTS: No questions.

CAPTAIN BROWN: No questions.

CAPTAIN FIELDEN: No questions.
CAPTAIN CORBALLY: No questions.
CAPTAIN NEAVE: No questions.
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS: No questions.
LIEUT. BOYD: No questions.
CAPTAIN MUNRO: No questions.
LIEUT. JEDRZEJOWICZ: No questions.

Cross-examined by COLONEL BACKHOUSE.

- Q You have told us the reason why Hoess was sent to Auschwitz for the incoming transport ? A Yes.
- Q What transports were those that you were talking about ? A I believe these are the transports which were destined for the gas chambers.
- Q You knew about the gas chambers then, did you ? A Everybody in Auschwitz, the whole area, know about it.
- Q And you think that Hoess was sent there to command the whole camp because these transports were coming ? A Yes.
- Q Why do you think your husband was sent there, then ? A Because of his rank being only Hauptsturmfuhrer.
- Q And the camp that he went to command had all the gas chambers in it, did it not ? A Yes. He did not know that before.
- Q You told us that your husband told you one night that those who were responsible for the lives which were being destroyed could not have a very easy conscience ? A Yes.
- Q He realised it was very wrong, did he not ? A It was his order.
- Q That is what I am asking you. Your husband realised that it was very wrong that these people should be killed, did he not ? A Yes, naturally.

MAJOR WINWOOD: No re-examination.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Where was your private residence in Belsen in regard to the camp ? Was it nearby or was it some distance away ? A About 50 metres from the entrance to the camp. It was a barrack.

(The witness withdraws).

MAJOR WINWOOD: That closes the defence of accused No. 1.

I also represent Dr. Fritz Klein, accused No. 2. I am not calling any witnesses on Dr. Klein's behalf, but with your permission I would like to say a word first.

Dr. Klein was, I think, introduced to the Court by the Prosecutor as a Rumanian, but in fact he was a German living in Rumania, part of a small minority who always felt themselves to belong to Germany.

He practised as a doctor and eventually became a doctor in the Rumanian Army. German doctors in the Rumanian Army did not apparently have a very good time and were not very popular, and when the new regime came

Germany Dr. Klein went to Germany and, as he said in his statement, he volunteered for the S.S.

He eventually found himself at Auschwitz in company with a considerable number of other doctors, and his duty there, as he says in his statement and to which he will adhere, was to select people from those incoming transports.

They were selected as follows, those capable of work and those incapable. He will tell you that there was no question of not carrying out that order; there were lots of other doctors there who would have done it if he had refused and been sent to the gas chamber himself.

He will also tell you that he did his best to deal with the border line cases and give them the benefit of the doubt and send them to the capable of work party.

He will tell you he took no part in any experiments at Auschwitz at all. He will tell you he went to Belsen to take the place of Dr. Schnabel for a short time, and Dr. Schnabel told him that he was to carry on as Dr. Schnabel had been carrying on. Later Dr. Klein became second doctor to Dr. Horstmann, and he was told by Dr. Horstmann that his duty was to look after the administrative S.S. and the guards at Belsen camp, and that Dr. Horstmann himself retained responsibility for the internees.

On the 12th or 13th April, many of the S.S. left under the terms of the armistice, and as Dr. Horstmann was a young doctor it appears that he thought he might be sent to the front or go on taking part in the war, and so Dr. Klein was left, if I may say so colloquially, holding the baby which had been conceived by Dr. Horstmann, Dr. Schnabel and Dr. Lollinge. That is the reason why Dr. Klein stayed there.

When Dr. Klein did take over, although it was at the time when everybody knew the British were coming, he did everything in his power that he could for the internees. You will appreciate that it was a very short time he had at his disposal, but he did all he could.

Now I would like to call Dr. Klein.

THE ACCUSED, FRITZ KLEIN takes his stand at the place from which the other witnesses have given their evidence, and having been duly sworn is examined by MAJOR WINWOOD as follows:

- Q What is your full name ? A Fritz Klein.
- Q Where were you born, in what country ? A Born at Zeiden, near Kronstadt in Rumania.
- Q What was your nationality ? A At that time it was Austria, the Austrian Hungarian monarchy.
- Q When were you born ? A On the 24th November, 1888.
- Q Did you always remain a Rumanian ? A When I was born I belonged to the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. After the first world war I became a Rumanian citizen until now. I still remain a Rumanian citizen.
- Q Did you live in Rumania in a German community ? A Yes, the majority in that town Zeiden, where I lived, was German; about two-thirds German and one-third Rumanian.
- Q Did you feel yourself to be a German or Rumanian ?

COLONEL BACKHOUSE: No. This is getting very much too loading now.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Are you objecting to the question?

COLONEL BACKHOUSE: I am just reminding my friend that I think it is time to stop leading.

THE PRESIDENT: What is the question you want to put?

MAJOR WINWOOD: The question I was putting when I was interrupted was: "Did you feel yourself to be a German or Rumanian."

THE PRESIDENT: What you want to put is what nationality he considered himself?

MAJOR WINWOOD: No. I know he is Rumanian. The question I put was: Do you consider yourself a German or a Rumanian?"

THE PRESIDENT: Very well.

THE WITNESS: I am a Rumanian subject of German nationality. My mother tongue is German and all my schools, elementary schools and the higher schools, were all done in the German language.

Q Where did you practise as a doctor? A In three places, all near Kronstadt. The first was Rossbach, the second Brendorf and the third called Zeiden. Then another place where I practised my profession was called Dava which is on the line between Kronstadt and Arad, about 50 kilometres on that line.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Where did he qualify as a doctor?

MAJOR WINWOOD: Where did you qualify as a doctor? A In Budapest.

THE INTERPRETER: He said all his schooling was in German. Now the university at Budapest is not German, but Hungarian. He said his university years were in German and his qualification at Budapest is again in Hungarian.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: I think it is quite clear the Court what he means. He was one of the German minority, he had his own schools and he was brought up there. When he went to Budapest he would have to take it in Rumanian.

MAJOR WINWOOD: Did you practise all the time as a civilian doctor? A Yes.

Q Did you do any service in the Rumanian Army? A Yes. The last three years I was in the Rumanian Army partly because of the troubles which were there always, and partly we were stationed at the Rumanian-Russian frontier.

Q When did you leave the Rumanian Army? A I did not leave the Rumanian Army, but in the summer of 1943 there was a sort of treaty between the German and Rumanian Governments that all those appartaining to the German minorities should continue their service in the German Army.

Q What part of the German Army did you join? A The S.S. formation. It was impossible to join the proper German Wehrmacht because one had to have German nationality for that.

Q Where did you go in December, 1943? A On the 15th December I went to Auschwitz.

Q Who was the Commandant at Auschwitz when you arrived? A Hoess.

Q And how long did Hoess remain there? A I do not know. <http://www.legal-tools.org/doc/ea226e/>
only for a short time.

Q Who was the senior doctor ? A Dr. Wirtz.

Q Did Dr. Wirtz give you any instructions when you first came to Auschwitz ?
A No particular instructions. He only told me in which part I have to do my duty, where.

Q To which part were you detailed ?
A I started with my duties in the women's compound in Auschwitz, continued then in the gypsy camp and then in the Jewish family camp, mixed camp, and then I continued in Auschwitz No. 1.

Q How many doctors were there in Auschwitz ?
A Seven or eight.

Q In your statement you mentioned about selections. Will you tell us what happened on those selections ?
A The first time it was Dr. Wirtz who gave me these orders when the first transport arrived. He gave me the orders to divide the transport into two parts, those who are fit to work and those who are not fit to work. Amongst the instructions concerning those unfit to work were his explanations, unfit to work, are, for instance, those who because of their age cannot work, or who are too weak or whose health is not very good, and then also children up to the age of 13, 14 or 15.

Q Who was it actually did the selecting ?
A Also amongst those considered as unfit to work were also the sick and the pregnant.

Q My question was, who did the actual selecting ? A The selecting was done exclusively by doctors.

Q Was each person selected individually ?
A It was not a proper examination which took place; they were not undressed for instance, but one looked at the person and if she looked ill one asked a few questions: "What is the matter?", and if the person was healthy then it was decided immediately.

Q Did everybody pass before a doctor before they were divided into capable to work and incapable ?
A Yes. The doctor would have to look at everybody and he decided whether they were fit or unfit for work.

Q What happened to those people who were selected as capable of work ?
A The doctor had only to make the decision whether they were fit or not fit. What happened to them afterwards was not up to him. He sent them away, but whether they went to Arbeitskommandos, to working parties, or whether they had to stay in the camp for a short time he did not know.

Q What happened to those people who the doctors selected as unfit for work ?
A The doctor had to make his selection, but he had no influence upon what was going to happen to them, but I have heard and I know that part of them were sent to the gas chambers and the crematorium.

Q Did you ever take part in any other selections except when the transports came in - selections for anything ? A I have heard much talk in this Court about selections in the hospitals, but there were no real selections in the hospitals. The only thing that was done was that the doctor was ordered to produce lists with the names of people who would be better in two, three or four weeks, and people who had no chance to become better and that was the only thing that was done, but it was no real selection.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: I am not quite sure if I have got the sense of that.
Would this be what you think he said: "In the hospitals there were no real

selections done; the only ones selected were those who would not be fit in three or four weeks". Is that the substance of it ?

THE PRESIDENT: Doctors made lists.

MAJOR WINFIELD: Yes.

THE WITNESS: Very often these people who were put on the lists remained in the hospital for a time, sometimes they were removed to another department in the hospital, and sometimes they left the hospital. At one time it happened that several cases of scabies were reported. I made a selection and put all the people with scabies in a separate room.

Q Going back one moment to the selections when the transports came in, was your work completed when you had divided them into fit for work and unfit

for work ?

A Yes.

(At 1125 hours the Court is closed).

(At 1135 hours the Court re-opens).

(The accused are again brought before the Court).

COL. BACKHOUSE: Before you continue, sir, there is a question of whether you would release the prosecution witnesses. I have discussed it with my friends and I understand the defence have no objection. I have made it clear to them that I can give no guarantee to bring them back because I know that some at least are anxious to go to their homes.

THE PRESIDENT: These are really all the Polish witnesses?

COL. BACKHOUSE: Displaced persons.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that will be all right.

MAJOR WINWOOD: (To the witness): Did you ever go down to the gas chamber yourself? A. Yes, I once had a look at the crematorium and gas chamber. It was not working at the time.

Q Did you have any duty to perform down at the gas chamber? A. No, not at the gas chamber.

Q What was your personal opinion about this gas chamber business? A. I did not approve but I did not protest because that was no use at all.

Q Do you know anything about any experiments that took place at Auschwitz?
A Yes, I heard that experiments were made at Auschwitz but I had nothing to do with them myself, other doctors were doing that. It happened in a special block but I have never been in that block.

Q From where did the orders come about the selections? A. I do not know; I always received a message by telephone then I went down to the station on the platform by Red Cross car and that is all I know about it.

Q When did you first go to Belsen? A. For the first time I came to Belsen at the end of January, 1945.

Q Who was the doctor at Belsen when you first arrived? A. Sturmbannfuhrer Schnabel.

Q Did you and Dr. Schnabel both remain at Belsen? A. No, Dr. Schnabel went away after a few days and he said he would be coming back in a short time, he said everything was in running order, the Red Cross orderlies knew their work so my duties would only be very light. I had to go to the camp every day; if there was anything special I had to do something about it but not very much was expected and, furthermore, I had to sign some papers.

Q Were there any hospitals in the camp? A. Yes, it was rather primitive.

Q Who looked after these hospitals? A. The doctors chosen from the prisoners.

Q What was the position with regard to medical stores and medicine? A. During that first period of ten days I cannot say that medicine was very short though I also cannot say that there was a very large amount.

Q Did Dr. Schnabel come back? A. After about ten days Dr. Schnabel came back and I left for Nueune Gamme.

Q Did you come back to Belsen? A. I came back to Belsen in the middle of March. Dr. Schnabel was not there but Dr. Horstmann was. In the first two days Dr. Horstmann took me round the camp, showed me everything, and I gained the impression that this was a lost post. It was working a very ungrateful work -- it was a thankless job.

Q Did Dr. Horstmann give you any instructions? A. Dr. Horstmann did not give me part of the camp to work in; he said: "You will only stay here for two weeks so you had better look after the S.S. troops". Dr. Horstmann took me with him into the camp very often and I always said to him: "You had better be very careful, you had better make as many reports as you can because the situation is deteriorating every day." I told him if I was responsible for this camp I would write to Berlin every day telling them all about the bad conditions so that nobody could accuse me that I did not warn higher authority.

A MEMBER OF THE COURT: Did he mean the situation in the camp or the situation of the war?

MAJOR WINWOOD: When you talk about the situation, do you mean the situation in Belsen? A. In the camp.

Q Did anybody from Berlin visit the camp in the month of March? A. Yes, Pohl came and sought to save whatever could be saved; I hoped that through his visit things would improve.

Q Did anybody come with Pohl? A. Yes, with Pohl came Obergruppenfuhrer Hoess and Dr. Lollinge.

Q Did you have any conversation with Dr. Lollinge? A. Yes, I had a conversation and I did not need to point out very much to these people because they had seen with their own eyes how bad the whole situation became.

Q What was the position with regard to medical supplies at this time?

A At that time I did not have a proper insight into the question of medical supplies because at that time I was not doing that duty, but about three days before the British troops entered the camp and when I took over I was surprised about the comparatively huge amount of supplies which were there.

Q Why did you take over the medical side of the camp? A. When Horstmann went away then Hauptsturmfuhrer Kramer said that I should take over.

Q Did Horstmann go away by himself? A. No, he went away with the majority of the people because only a small minority stayed on in the camp.

Q Did you have any conversation with Commandant Kramer after you took over the camp? A. Yes, when I went to the camp I was very deeply impressed about the tragio circumstances I saw there and when I returned I met Kramer and I told him about those terrible impressions I had. I told him that the first thing to be done was to get rid of all the bodies which were lying about in the camp, then the second very important or most important question was the question of water because in my opinion I believe they were suffering more under thirst than under hunger.

Q What was the first thing you did yourself as senior doctor and only doctor?

A I called a meeting of all the internee doctors. There was a large number, about 80 to 100. I told them we would try to do what could be done, but in fact nothing much could be done. I added, however, about this rather huge amount of medical supplies, that they should make out a list of all their requirements and said they would be met because those supplies need not last for a long while as the British troops were going to arrive very shortly. On the same day I took over from the stores a huge amount of milk, tins of milk, tins of meat and also some tins of cake or biscuits. I told the doctors that these should also be distributed among the children, women and sick prisoners, who really did require it. I told also the doctors and the orderlies who seemed to be also very much in need of nourishment - they were all badly undernourished - that they should take for two of them one tin of each of these enumerated things. In my opinion, however, this distribution of these tins of milk and biscuits and so on was of not much use; it could not improve the situation very much. The main

question was water and water and nourishment and food for the whole community. This little thing was like a drop. The worst thing in my opinion was the terrible overcrowding of the camp; people did not know where to lie down, how to lie down; there were no beds, no blankets, no pallets; there was no water, no sanitation, because at that time nobody thought of all these necessary things.

Q How often had you been into the camp while Dr. Horstmann was in charge?

A I went about five or six times with him. He usually took me with him - Dr. Horstmann - into the compound. Whenever he met me he said: "Just come along with me, we will go into the compound". Apart from that I went on my own about twice or three times into the compound because I took over, without having been detailed to do so, the so-called Belladonna Camp, which was a camp with Turkish people, Spanish people, all sorts of mixed nationalities; it was called the Belladonna Camp.

Q When Dr. Horstmann left did he hand over to you any lists or reports or any papers? A. Nothing, only the camp.

Q At that time had you any idea how many people were suffering from what disease? A. Yes, I had an approximate idea, but I could not say for sure. In fact Dr. Horstmann and myself had to rely on the internee doctors for any sort of strength return of numbers of disease or how many suffered from which disease.

Q When the British troops took over the camp did you have a conversation with a brigadier? A. I do not remember.

Q Did you receive any instructions from any of the British officers about anything? A. No.

Q Did you carry out any medical duties after the British came in? A. On the first day I went still around and was still interested but it cannot be really called duty or service any more.

MAJOR MUNRO: No questions.

MAJOR CRANFIELD: No questions.

CAPT. ROBERTS: No questions.

CAPT. BROWN: No questions.

CAPT. FIELDEN: No questions.

CAPT. CORBALLY: No questions.

CAPT. NEAVE: No questions.

CAPT. PHILLIPS: No questions.

Cross-examined by LT. BOYD.

Q Would No. 42 stand up? (The accused No. 42, Hilde Lisiewitz, stands up.) Do you remember when this woman had typhus? A. I do remember. I am not quite sure whether it was typhus; she had a high temperature but I am not sure whether it was typhus.

Q Can you remember when that was? A. I cannot remember exact dates but it must have been in March or April.

Q Can you remember how long she was ill? A. I do not know exactly but I should think for a long period.

CAPT. MUNRO: No questions.

LT. JEDRZEJOWICZ: No questions.

Cross-examined by COL. BACKHOUSE.

- Q. Dr. Klein, you are an educated man and you were educated at a non German university; is not that true? A. Yes.
- Q. When you went to Auschwitz and you found these transports of people being taken to the gas chambers and killed did you not realise that that was murder? A. Yes.
- Q. Am I right in saying that the S.S. treated these internees purely as animals or cattle? (No answer)
- Q. Those who were not fit to work were simply destroyed; is not that true? A. Yes.
- Q. Those who were fit to work were beaten to their work, starved and overworked until their turn came to go to the gas chamber; is not that true? A. I have not seen it happen, but if it did happen it was not right.
- Q. You have seen many people beaten by the S.S. whilst you have been at concentration camps, have not you? A. No, I have not seen that myself, but I have received in the hospital people who had been beaten by the S.S., but the majority of the patients I received were beaten by the kapos and other inmates.
- Q. Did you complain to the lagerfuhrers about it? A. Yes, I did. As a matter of fact, when I got these people who were beaten I made a report to the lagerfuhrer with the names of those who had given beatings. I must add that sometimes kapos or S.S. fuhrers who were beating these people asked me not to report them, and then because I was asked not to do so I did not report them, so I cannot say that I reported every beating.
- Q. Now I want to turn back to the transports when they used to arrive at the station. You went down in a Red Cross car to meet them, did you? A. Not always in a Red Cross wagon; sometimes on a bicycle and sometimes I walked there.
- Q. Who was in charge of the prisoners when you got there? A. An S.S. guard was there whose duty it was to see that they did not get away. That is at least what I believe; I am not sure.
- Q. Well, you were there. Cannot you tell us? A. Somebody in charge of the transport handed the prisoners over to somebody who was in charge in Auschwitz.
- Q. Who were the people from Auschwitz who took charge of them? A. I was never very much interested, therefore I do not know exactly, but I suppose an S.S. fuhrer or an S.S. unterfuhrer. The commandant of Auschwitz, he will be able to tell exactly who was in charge there.
- Q. Have you seen S.S. women on these parades? A. Yes.
- Q. I suppose you as the doctor divided them, those who were to live on one side, those who were to die on the other, and the S.S. marched them off; is that right? A. Yes.
- Q. Did none of them ever try to escape? A. Sometimes they tried to get from that part where those fit for work stood, and when they were sent to the other part, to those who are unfit, they tried to get over the other side, but if they were caught they were sent back to those unfit for work.
- Q. You have told us that you went down yourself to have a look at the gas chamber; that you were not on duty, but you went down to see it? A. Yes.
- Q. Having taken part in the earlier stage of the murder did you want to see how it was carried out? A. I did not look at them for that reason; I simply wanted to see them.

- Q. You have told us that there were experiments carried on at Auschwitz. Was there a Dr. Weber there? A. I cannot remember that name.
- Q. Was there a Dr. Schumann? A. Yes.
- Q. Was he experimenting on the sterilisation of women? A. I could not say what sort of experiments he was doing, but I know that he carried out experiments.
- Q. Was there a Dr. Glauber? A. Yes.
- Q. And a Dr. Gebel? A. Yes.
- Q. Were they carrying out experiments together? A. Gebel and Glauber, those two were always together.
- Q. Were they carrying out experiments on electric sterilisation of women? A. I know only they were carrying out experiments. What sort of experiments I do not know.
- Q. Was Dr. Wirtz carrying out experiments too? A. I do not know.
- Q. Did all the doctors live together? A. With the exception of Glauber, Wirtz and Dr. Fischer and Gebel, who lived out, the other doctors lived together.
- Q. To turn back to the selections, I want you to tell me more about the selections that took place in hospital. You have told us that you had to make lists of people who might get better in a certain period and people who would not? A. Yes.
- Q. What happened to the people who would not? A. It was always different. These lists were asked very frequently, and sometimes after having handed in the list nothing happened at all, they simply stayed on. Sometimes again lists were asked, for instance, for all the patients suffering with tuberculosis, and suddenly those people were taken away.
- Q. What happened to them - the gas chamber? A. We never knew where they went. They were fetched in trucks and where they went I do not know.
- Q. Do you remember the Hungarian transports coming? A. Yes.
- Q. Was the gas chamber working day and night then? A. They might have been working night and day; transports were arriving the whole time and if they were sent to the gas chambers then the gas chambers must have been working night and day.
- Q. Were not they sent to the gas chamber? A. I do not know exactly. I believe so. I understand it is so, but I am not sure, but it might have been.
- Q. Let us turn to Belzen now. What did Kramer say to you, what was his attitude, when you told him the crying need for water and need to remove the corpses that were lying about the camp? A. He told me: "You cannot give me any orders."
- Q. Were there corpses lying all around the camp? A. Yes.
- Q. You have told us about this meeting of internee doctors that you saw? A. Yes.
- Q. Until you called this meeting had there been any proper organisation of the internee doctors at all? A. Yes, there was an organisation and each block had the doctors, and there was a duty rota.
- Q. Where did you find this huge supply of medical stores? A. There was a chemistry in the camp itself.

COD .BACKHOUSE : Medical stores. (To the witness) Until you distributed them had medical stores been short in the camp? A. In the stores or in the camp?

Q. In the camp. Had the hospitals been short of medical stores? A. Yes, they were short of medical supplies.

Q. The internees at Belsen, the prisoners, were they the same type of people that you had had at Auschwitz? A. Their physical condition in Auschwitz was better; they were healthy and strong.

Q. I was not concerned with their physical condition. I mean the types of persons who were in there. A. I believe they were the same. I did not notice any particular difference. There were political prisoners, there were professional criminals, there were Jews, there were Ayrans, just as any other concentration camp.

Q. At Auschwitz if they were unfit for work they went to the gas chamber, did not they? A. Yes, probably.

Q. Do you seriously think then that the S.S. had any intention of using Belsen as a convalescent camp? A. In the beginning there was some talk about the camp being a sort of exchange camp of prisoners, but later on it did not give me that impression at all; it was not a camp for sick people, it was a death camp, a torture camp. With your permission I would like to add something.

THE PRESIDENT: To that question? A. It is a general thing I would like to add.

THE PRESIDENT: No, you cannot.

Re-examined by MAJOR WINWOOD.

Q. Did the people who came down to the camp from Berlin know the conditions? A. Yes. They came, they saw and they knew, and in my opinion they were wholly responsible for these conditions, because they were sending thousands and thousands and thousands of people into that camp without providing them with anything which they needed.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Dr. Klein, you said that medical supplies were found in the camp shortly before the British came. Could you give the court any indication as to the quantity? A. Only approximately.

Q. Approximately will do. A. The least we had was dressing material. All the other things would have been sufficient for a period of five days to a week if we had distributed them very carefully.

Q. Do you mean there were medical supplies to cover the camp for five days? A. Yes.

Q. I think the court are rather interested in this, so we had better go into it a little closer. You had how many people requiring medical attention in the camp at that time, approximately? 1,000 or 10,000? (Pause) These are simple questions; I do wish you would get on. How many sick people were there requiring attention in the camp? A. 3,000 to 4,000. I speak only about those who are in need of medicine or any medical stuff. There are still quite a lot of people who do not need at the moment medicine.

Q. Now about the other stocks of milk, meat, biscuits. Can you give the court

any idea of the quantity, in weight or in number, or any indication as to the amount of stock there was in hand of that kind? A. These tins were packed, of course, and they filled a room in the length of four metres and approximately in the height five metres.

Q. Where was this room? A. First it was in a food store, and then I fetched it and put it into a room in the vicinity of this drug store which I mentioned before.

Q. Could you tell from looking at the tins whether they had come from Red Cross parcels or whether they were the kind of tins which would be issued by the German authorities to the wehrmacht or to the concentration camp? A. I did not look myself, but I was told that all that amount came from the Red Cross.

A MEMBER OF THE COURT: You have told us the width of the room where these parcels were kept, and the height, but what about the length? A. Four metres long, width five, height three.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE COURT: I want to ask you a question about the selections at the station. Would you give the court a description of exactly how they were done. Were they simply done as the people marched by, or did you stop and ask them questions, or how was it done?

A. They were standing on the platform, generally in fives, and then I looked at them, sometimes asked them a few questions about their health,

and sent them to one side or the other. I was always standing and it

was they who were moving.

THE PRESIDENT: Major Winwood, have you any further questions?

MAJOR WINWOOD: No, Sir.

(At 1300 hours the court is closed)

(At 1430 hours the court is reopened)

(The accused are again brought before the court)

THE ACCUSED, PETER WEINGARTNER takes his stand at the place from which the other witnesses have given their evidence, and having been duly sworn is examined by MAJOR WINWOOD: As follows:-

- Q What is your full name ? A. Peter Weingartner.
- Q What is your nationality ? A. Yugoslav.
- Q Where were you born ? A. In Putinci, Yugoslavia.
- Q In what year were you born ? A. 4th June 1913.
- Q What profession did you take up ? A. Carpenter.
- Q How long did you work as a carpenter ? A. About three years.
- Q Were you called up for service in the army ? A. Yes.
- Q Which army was that ? A. In 1935 I was serving for nine months in the Yugoslav army.
- Q What did you do when you came out of the army ? A. Then I carried on with my work as a carpenter.
- Q What did you do when war broke out ? A. Three times I was called in for manoeuvres; every time four to six weeks.
- Q What did you do when Germany attacked Yugoslavia ? A. I took part in the war against Germany.
- Q When was that ? A. From the 12th March until the end of April 1941.
- Q What did you do after the German-Yugoslav war was finished ? A. I was captured by the Germans and then released and I went home.
- Q How long did you stay at home ? A. Until the 19th October 1942.
- Q What happened on that date ? A. On that day I had to go to Germany to the SS
- Q Did you go as a volunteer ? A. No.
- Q Where did you go to in Germany ? A. Auschwitz.
- Q What did you do when you first got to Auschwitz ? A. Weapon training.
- Q How long did that training last ? A. Three months.
- Q And then what did you do ? A. Then we were detailed as guards.
- Q What sort of guards did you do ? A. Guards of concentration camps.
- Q What was your next employment ? A. I was on guard duty until 22nd November 1943.
- Q Were you always in the camp itself or did you go outside ? A. Inside; I mean not inside the proper concentration camp but inside the whole camp area.
- Q Did you go outside the camp with working parties ? A. Sometimes, yes.

- Q Have you heard of the Arbeitskommando Webere ? A. Yes.
- Q Did you have anything to do with that kommando ? A. Yes.
- Q When did you start having anything to do with that kommando ? A. At the beginning of December 1944.
- Q How long did this employment last ? A. Until Christmas.
- Q What did this kommando do ? A. Digging trenches for the regulation of the river.
- Q How many people were employed on the work ? A. 1,000 women.
- Q Who was in charge of the thousand women ? A. I.
- Q Were there guards as well as yourself ? A. Yes.
- Q How many guards ? A. Approximately 30 men.
- Q Who was in charge of those 30 men ? A. One officer of the military police.
- Q What was your job with this kommando ? A. I was to supervise them and to see to it that they were working.
- Q Was there anybody else to help you guarding the women ? A. On the working site apart from me, nobody.
- Q Did they all work hard all the time ? A. I cannot say.
- Q Were you always satisfied with the way they worked ? A. Yes.
- Q Did you ever beat any of the women ? A. No.
- Q Did you ever have any dogs under your command ? A. Yes.
- Q What kind of dogs were they ? A. Wolfhounds.
- Q Were these women entitled to extra rations ? A. Yes.
- Q Who was responsible for seeing that they got them ? A. I was.
- Q Did they get them ? A. Yes, with the exception of some of them.
- Q Who did ^{not} get them ? A. Those who did not finish a certain type of job which was asked from them to finish.
- Q Were you authorised to withhold the extra rations from them ? A. Yes.
- Q Do you know the witness Glinowieski who was in this court ? A. No.
- Q May I remind you that he was the one who broke down when giving his evidence in that very box ? A. Yes.
- Q Did you ever see him Auschwitz ? A. I cannot remember.
- Q Do you remember his brother ? A. No.
- Q Do you remember the story he told about his brother ? A. Yes.
- Q Is that story true or untrue ? A. Untrue.

- Q When you say it is untrue do you mean the whole story is untrue or part of it ? A. I do not know of anything.
- Q Did you do any other duty at Auschwitz ? A. I was blockfuhrer.
- Q In which compound ? A. In the women's compound.
- Q And as blockfuhrer what were your duties ? A. I was on telephone duty; that is all I did during the whole year.
- Q Was that before you went into the Kommando Webere or after ? A. Before.
- Q How long did you stay at Auschwitz ? A. Until about 19th January 1945.
- Q Then where did you go ? A. For two days we were marching from Auschwitz and then we were loaded into open train wagons. It was winter. Then we arrived in Ravensbruck. The prisoners remained in Ravensbruck but I, myself, went to Berlin.
- Q Where did you go from there ? A. From Berlin I was transferred to Bergen-Belsen.
- Q When did you arrive at Belsen ? A. I cannot say for certain, but I believe in the beginning of February.
- THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Are you now leaving Auschwitz ?
- MAJOR WINWOOD: Yes, I have left Auschwitz.
- THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Are you not going to put to him the allegations made against him at Auschwitz ?
- MAJOR WINWOOD: I think I have.
- THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: There is a whole lot of accusations made by Sunschein at Auschwitz. I do not know whether you want to deal with it or not, but I want to know for the purposes of my summing-up whether you are accepting that or not.
- MAJOR WINWOOD: I put that to the witness, I think.
- THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: I may not have heard you, but Suschein said quite a lot. She said she was put into the river with water up to her knees, and that Weingartner treated people badly, beat them, etc.
- MAJOR WINWOOD: I put that to the witness as to whether he beat anybody or not.
- THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Very well; if you think that is sufficient well and good.
- MAJOR WINWOOD: (To the witness) What employment did you take up when you got to Belsen ? A. I reported to the commandant of the camp, Kramer, and asked him to be put in charge again of blocks as a blockfuhrer, and he said "That is all right" and I was a blockfuhrer in the women's compound.
- Q How long were you a blockfuhrer ? A. Until the British troops arrived.
- Q What were your duties as blockfuhrer in the women's compound ? A. I was responsible for the strength of the whole camp. I had to know that everybody was present or if anybody was missing.

Q Did you have anything to do with Arbeitskommandos in Belsen ? A. I had nothing to do personally with them, but I had to stand at the gate and count those outgoing and incoming prisoners and see that the figures tallied.

Q Did any of your duties ever call you away from the gate ? A. Yes, telephone duties.

Q Where was the telephone ? A. It was in the vicinity of the gate, about five metres from the gate, in a small telephone box.

Q Do you remember an occasion when the personnel of one of the kitchens was changing over ? A. Yes.

Q Will you tell the court what happened ? A. It was a working party to which many prisoners wanted to belong, because firstly they had more to eat in the kitchen and, secondly, they had the possibility after work to take something away from the kitchen. It was in the middle of the night - between three and four o'clock - instead of the 100 to 150 required prisoners for the work squad about 600 or 700 were assembled and they were not queueing in a proper and orderly manner, but they were pressing on. I tried to quieten them down in the beginning with words, and then later on when I had no results I tried to find something and I found a rubber tube, and I hit the Capo, who should have been responsible for the orderly behavior of that working squad, five or six times with it.

Q Did the Capo say anything to you ? A. I heard it from the other side that that Capo had to go to hospital and have his wound dressed and I heard it that he had to stay there for a fortnight. That is a lie.

THE PRESIDENT: (To the interpreter) I am not clear about this Capo. You said "him".

THE INTERPRETER: I am sorry; it is a woman.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Is this in connection with Sunschein ?

MAJOR WINWOOD: Yes. (To the witness) Did you have any difficulty in controlling these internees who were crowding round the cookhouse ? A. That was not in the neighbourhood of the kitchen; it was near the gate.

Q Did you ever carry a rifle ? A. No, a pistol.

Q Did you ever have to use that pistol to control internees ? A. Once in self-defence to keep them away from me, and those were shots in the air.

Q When was that occasion ? A. At the end of March or the beginning of April.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Is this still at the gate or is he talking about another incident ?

MAJOR WINWOOD: This is still at the gate, I think. Actually I thought it was at the cookhouse. I am trying to get him back to the incident. I do not know whether it is the same. (To the witness) At the time you had to use your pistol was that the same time that you had the trouble with the Capo ? A. No, it is not the same incident. It is another one.

Q Apart from this occasion when you hit the Capo with a piece of rubber tubing did you ever hit any other internees with anything ? A. No, it may be with my hand.

Q How often did you possibly hit people with your hand ? A. Once or twice in a month.

Q Did it ever do them any harm ? A. No.

- Q You said that you were at Auschwitz in the autumn of 1942. Was this the Berkenau Camp or another part of the Auschwitz Camp? A. I was in Berkenau.
- Q Would you say that you knew the other SS men who were working in the Berkenau Camp? A. Some of them I have known, but those have gone to the front or somewhere else; I do not know.
- Q Was that man working with you as part of the staff of Berkenau in the autumn of 1942? (Indicating No.26 Heinrich Schreirer) A. No.

THE PRESIDENT: Not all of the defending officers appear to be present.

CAPT. PHILLIPS: I think they have been called out to see witnesses. Captain Neave told me that he had no questions, nor has Mr. Boyd.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: I think somebody should be here to say on behalf of any accused that there are no questions.

THE PRESIDENT: You are answering for them?

CAPT. PHILLIPS: Yes.

CAPT. ROBERTS: Major Cranfield asked me to say that he had no questions.

THE PRESIDENT: I realise that there are witnesses arriving at unexpected moments but somebody must be here to say on behalf of the accused that there are no questions so that it is on the record.

LT. JEDRZEJOWICZ: I have no questions.

CAPT. MUNRO: No questions.

Cross-examined by COLONEL BACKHOUSE

- Q When you were in charge of this kommando how far from the camp was the work? A. About four to five kilometres.
- Q What sort of a road was it? A. It was a very bad road and it ran in between fields.
- Q Did you have a steep hill to go up? A. Yes.
- Q This was in December? A. Yes.
- Q What time in the morning did your women have to go out there? A. From the camp at half past seven.
- Q Did they have anything to eat before they started? A. Yes.
- Q What? A. Bread and coffee and apart from that two kilos per week additional food.
- Q How long did they stay out at the work? A. They were working until 1500 hours, then it was tidied up and they went home.
- Q Did they have anything to eat whilst they were out there working? A. They were only preparing some tea.
- Q Did they have anything to eat between the time they left at 7.30 in the morning until after they had marched back in the evening to the camp? A. The prisoners took their evening rations as haversack rations with them. They ate it during the lunch time and when they came home they had their warmed cooked lunch for dinner.

- Q You mean there was nothing provided for them at midday, but they kept something back of what they should have had the night before to provide themselves with something ? A They got once per week 4 lb. of bread more. They could keep that and use that, and apart from that they changed over. They ate their lunch at night and they kept their portions, their rations, for the evening for the next day.
- Q You told us they boiled tea whilst they were out there. Where did they get tea in December, 1944 ? A The firm where the prisoners worked they provided the people with tea.
- Q Do you remember the prisoner Sunschon who gave evidence ? A Yes.
- Q Was she a forewoman in that gang ? A I cannot remember; I believe yes.
- Q Did you not remove her from that position ? A I cannot remember.
- Q Was not that because she refused to beat other prisoners ? A I had strictest orders from the commandant to beat nobody; anyway to beat anybody was quite out of the question.
- Q You will agree with me then that if you did beat people that was not in obedience to superior orders or anything of that kind ? A I never beat anybody, but of course if I would have done so then it would have been not in obedience with the orders of the superior officer.
- Q When you were marching your squad out to this work, did some of them straggle behind ? A No, we were marching so slowly that nobody was straggling behind because everybody could keep up that pace.
- Q Did nobody ever have difficulty going up the hill ? A It might have been difficult for some of them, but two were waiting until everybody was there.
- Q How many dogs had you under your command ? A The dogs and their guards anyway did not concern me at all, but there were about three to four dogs.
- Q You know in answer to your own Defending Officer you said: "I had some dogs under my command". Now how many of them had you under your command ? A Three to four; more than four, never.
- Q And I suggest to you that you set those dogs on the women when they were going up the hill ? A The dogs did not concern me at all. They were not under my command, and I had nothing to do with the dogs or with the guards. My responsibility was the women.
- Q What were the dogs used for ? A For security reasons.
- Q What were they actually used for ? A They were posted round the working site in a distance of 200 metres, one from the other. There they stayed the whole time until at night the prisoners went home.
- Q Were some of those women working up to their knees in water ? A No.
- Q What were they doing ? A Digging.
- Q Digging what ? A Digging trenches for irrigating the river.
- Q How deep were the trenches ? A It was about 20 metres large, and during those three weeks I was in command there they went about half a metre down in depth.
- Q And in the middle of December did no water collect in that trench ?

A They could avoid those spots with water; they could stand on the earth where it was dry. There was no need for them to be in the water.

Q Now you have told us that you do not remember Glinowieski. Do you remember two carpenters working in the women's camp whilst you were blockfuhrer there?
A I do not know, because there were about 20 or sometimes 50 carpenters working there, so I cannot remember those two.

Q Do you remember a time when you found a man with some Russian golden roubles and a ring on him? A No.

Q Well, I suggest to you that you took that man Glinowieski and that you beat him until he died the following day? A I do not know anything about it.

Q You were in this women's lager for how long? A 12 months.

Q How many selections for the gas chamber did you see during that time?
A I had nothing to do with all that. I do not know anything about selections. I have heard that people were selected for work, but I do not know anything about it.

Q How many selections did you actually see yourself for the gas chamber?
A None.

Q Where did you spend all your days during this year? A In the barrack at the 'phone.

Q Did you never come out? A Sometimes I went into the room where I slept.

Q Were you in lager A or lager +B of the women's camp? A "A".

Q Was not the blockfuhrer's room quite near to the camp gate? A Yes, it was directly there.

Q And was not the ramp where these selections for the gas chamber took place running from the main gate down the main street of the camp just near your blockfuhrer's room? A Yes, there was a blockfuhrerstaben there, but it was not mine. I was living in another blockfuhrerstaben, not in that one.

Q Where was your room?

THE INTERPRETER: He cannot explain. Shall I give him something?

COLONEL BACKHOUSE: Never mind. (To the witness): Do you know where crematorium No. 1 was? A I know where the crematoria are, but I do not know where No. 1, 2 or 3 is.

Q Were not the people who were selected taken down that road right along the side of the women's camp where you were working, to get to any of the crematoria? A Yes, I have seen people there, but whether they went to the bath-house or whether they went to the crematorium I cannot say.

Q Now let us turn to Belzen. One of your duties, you have told us, was to stand at the gate and check the working kommandos in and out; is that right?
A Yes.

Q Do you remember Helene Klein giving evidence? A No.

Q She was the girl, if you remember, who said you stood at the gate checking people in and out and beating them as they went. Is that not true?
A It is not true.

Q Was the Kapo who you beat at Belzen, when you beat her with this rubber hose, Sunschein? A Yes.

- Q Whereabouts did you hit her ? A On the back.
- Q Where did you find your piece of rubber hosopipe ? A That was lying about in the vicinity of the gate.
- Q What length of hosopipe was it ? A A bit longer than half a metre.
- Q Were there quite a lot of pieces of hosopipe about that length lying about at Belsen ? A I do not know. I know only about this one which I had at that time and which I kept.
- Q It was singularly lucky, was it not, that the only day you ever beat anybody you happened to find this length of rubber tubing of just the right length lying just where you wanted it ? A Yes.
- Q What did you keep it for ? A That it should be preserved and should not be ruined outside lying about.
- Q Do you know Hilda Lohbauer, No. 11 ? A Yes.
- Q Is she not speaking the truth when she says in her statement that of the S.S. men she has seen with her own eyes beating and ill-treating prisoners you are one of the ones who should be punished ?

MAJOR CRANFIELD: I have not had an opportunity of cross-examining the affidavit, because that it not possible, but I think it ought to be known now that in due course ---

COLONEL BACKHOUSE: I do not know that my friend has any right to interfere in my cross-examination to tell us what will happen in due course.

THE PRESIDENT: What is your objection ?

MAJOR CRANFIELD: In due course I shall say that the quotation which the Prosecuting Officer is making now is a wrong translation of the statement made by Lohbauer.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: The affidavit is in, is it not ?

MAJOR CRANFIELD: Yes. I cannot object to the question, but I think everybody ought to know that in due course I shall say that.

THE PRESIDENT: I have the point you are making. You are in due course going to say this was not a correct translation, but in the meantime the Prosecutor is raising a point on the affidavit which has been put in.

MAJOR CRANFIELD: Yes. I have not had the opportunity of cross-examining.

THE PRESIDENT: I entirely agree. Will you put the question again, Colonel Backhouse ? Perhaps the shorthand writer had better read it.

(The shorthand writer reads the following question: "Is she not speaking the truth when she says in her statement that of the S.S. men she has seen with her own eyes beating and ill-treating prisoners you are one of the ones who should be punished?")

THE WITNESS: I admit it that I have beaten.

MAJOR WINWOOD: No re-examination.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: Will you explain what you mean by the last answer you gave, "I admit it I have beaten". The Court are not clear what you mean.

A I have been beating Sunschoin as I admitted and on several occasions, when internees were crowding in and closing in towards me and I could not help myself then I have beaten several times internees. I could not help myself alone against 1,000 women.

(The witness withdraws.)

THE PRESIDENT: Are you making any preliminary statement in regard to Kraft ?

MAJOR WINWOOD: No, I am just calling him.

PURL: <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/ea226e/>

THE ACCUSED, GEORGE KRAFT, takes his stand at the place from which the other witnesses have given their evidence and, having been duly sworn, is examined by MAJOR WINWOOD as follows:-

- Q What is your full name? A. George Kraft.
- Q What is your nationality? A. Rumanian.
- Q When and where were you born? A. On the 16th December, 1918, in Rode.
- Q What profession or employment did you take up? A. Miller.
- Q Up to what date? A. Until I was called for military service on the 15th November, 1939.
- Q How long were you in military service? A. I have served in the Rumanian Army from the 15th November, 1939, until the 30th April, 1943.
- Q What happened to you when you came out of the Army? A. After I left the Rumanian Army on the 30th April, 1943, I went home and I stayed there for three months.
- Q What happened at the end of that three months? A. During that period all the Germans in Rumania had to go to the S.S. and they left for Germany between the 11th June and the middle of July.
- Q Did you go as well? A. Yes, I had to.
- Q Did you want to go? A. Not as a volunteer; I had to go.
- Q Where did you first go to when you went to Germany? A. We first went to Vienna, all of us, and after eight days I went to Buchenwald.
- Q In what month did you arrive at Buchenwald? A. I arrived at Buchenwald between the 5th and the 8th August.
- Q How long did you stay in Buchenwald? A. We had about three weeks training in Buchenwald; then I went to Dora.
- Q How long did you stay at Dora? A. From the beginning of September until the 5th January, 1945.
- Q What kind of work did you do there? A. In the first five months I had my duty in the company, afterwards I went to the cookhouse.
- Q Where did you go to from Dora? A. From Dora I was posted to an outpost working party that belonged to the same camp but it was in a place called Klein Bodungen.
- Q When did you go to from Klein Bodungen? A. From the 5th April we had to evacuate the camp at Klein Bodungen. We marched away. We did not know where we went.
- Q Where did you eventually get to? A. On the 11th April we arrived at the military training ground in Bergen-Belsen.
- Q When you got to this place what employment did you take up? A. In the first days I did no duty at all, I simply reported and on the next day I was told what duties I was going to do.

Q What did you do? A. On the 12th and 13th April the guard company from Belsen went away. I wanted to go with them but Obersturmführer Hoessler and another obersturmführer told me I had to stay because they had no administrative personnel.

Q When did you first go into the main concentration camp at Belsen? A. The first time I entered the main concentration camp at Belsen was on the 22nd April under British guard.

Q Were you ever in Auschwitz? A. I have never seen it.

Q Have you ever ill-treated in any way any internee? A. I cannot remember such a case.

Q Have you ever shot anybody? A. No.

MAJOR MUNRO: No questions.

MAJOR CRANFIELD: No questions.

Cross-examined by CAPT. ROBERTS.

Q Would No. 14 stand up? (The accused No. 14, Oscar Schmiedt, stands up). Was this man ever in the S.S. as far as you know? A. I do not think so because he joined us quite naked when we were already in prison.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: We did not get that. Would the shorthand-writer read the answer? (The shorthand-writer does so.)

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: I do not quite follow. I thought the question was: had he been in the S.S. Is that the answer you want?

CAPT. ROBERTS: I am quite satisfied with that answer.

CAPT. BROWN: No questions.

Cross-examined by CAPT. FIELDEN.

Q Do you know who was in charge of the bath-house at Dora? A. There were several S.S. men in charge of it; it was a moving bath-house on wheels; I know one of the people in charge of it called Wilhelm Putschko.

Q Would No. 22 stand up. (The accused No. 22, Anchor Pinchen, stands up) Was No. 22 ever in the bath-house at Dora? A. I have been in Dora for 13 months but I never saw him.

Q If No. 22 had been in the bath-house at Dora would you have seen him?
A. I certainly would have seen him passing from the kitchen going to the bath-house.

Q I want to ask you some questions about after you left Klein Bodungen. Did you leave Klein Bodungen with a transport of internee prisoners?
A. All the prisoners and all S.S. people left Klein Bodungen the same day.

Q Were you in a particular transport that left Klein Bodungen on the 5th April? A. No, I was not with the actual transport. I was with a column of trucks that carried the food and other things.

- Q What was your immediate destination when you left Klein Bodungen?
 A We had received orders to march to Herzberg and there we had to go in railway waggons.
- Q Did you get on to the railway when you arrived at Herzberg? A. I was one of the earliest to arrive at Herzberg because I came by truck; about half an hour afterwards there was an air-raid and nothing was left of the station; no trains were leaving the station any more.
- Q What happened to the transport after that? A. In the afternoon Stofel arrived on his motor-cycle. He saw it was impossible to go by train so he decided to march on across the railway.
- Q How many internees were there in the transport at this time? A. In all there were 610 ~~plus 13~~ or 613.
- Q Did you get to Osterode that night? A. On the 5th April at 22 hours.
- Q What was the next town you called at? A. The prisoners marched off at six o'clock in the morning; we had to ~~wait~~ because we had no trucks. When we arrived at Zoesen they were there already.
- Q Are you able to name the towns or villages at which the transport stayed at night before you eventually arrived at Bergen-Belsen? A. Yes.
- Q What are they? A. First there was Osterode; the second was Zoesen; the third was Salzgitter; the next was Runingen; the next was Ohof; the last was Grosshehlen.
- Q Do you remember if there were any unusual incidents at any of these places you have named? A. In the last place, Grosshehlen, we were just distributing our food and then the front troops came and chased us away.
- Q Were those troops S.S. or Wehrmacht? A. S.S. front soldiers.
- Q Why did they chase you away? A. It was too near the front, it was only six kilometres away from Celle and the Allied troops had entered Celle already. I do not know the exact distance; it may be between three and six kilometres from Celle.

- Q. Was there any shooting at Grosshehlen? A. Their front troops came under the command of an officer. They fired shots in the air, took the prisoners out of the place they were getting their food, lined them up and marched them off. They guarded the prisoners themselves.
- Q. Do you know if any of the internees were killed as a result of the interference of this S.S. unit? A. I had to stay behind with the food trucks, so I do not know if any of the prisoners were killed.
- Q. To whom was the transport handed over when you arrived at Bergen-Belsen?
A. I arrived in Belsen half an hour after the transport and I found that the transport had gone into the camp or block already. I do not know who took them over. They went into one of the blocks of the military training ground.
- Q. What happened to the S.S. men who had been guarding the transport??
A. They were also billeted in a block, but separately from the prisoners.
- Q. Did you ever see that man shoot any internees on the march from Klein-Bodungen to Belsen(No.25. Franz Stofel) ? A. I have seen no shooting at all.
- Q. Do you know to which place it was originally intended you should have gone to when you left Klein-Bodungen? A. It was not publicly told, but I heard that we were going to Neuengamme.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE: It would help if the defending officers would indicate on whose behalf they are cross-examining, so we can get out books in order.

Cross-examined by CAPT. CORBALLY.

- CAPT. CORBALLY: I propose to cross-examine this witness on behalf of the prisoner Dor, No.27. (To the witness) How many trucks did you have with you on this march? A. We did not have trucks of our own, but in every place that we stayed we asked for trucks from the burgomaster, and we always received two trucks.
- Q. Did you carry any of the internees on your trucks who were lame and could not walk? A. Some of the prisoners were taken in one of the trucks, but I could not tell whether they were lame or not able to walk.
- Q. Is it true that you were asked by one of the S.S. guards to take certain prisoners on the truck with you? A. Yes. They did not ask me, but the other man who was with me, and not only prisoners but also S.S. men who could not walk.
- Q. You said just now that S.S. men who could not walk went in the trucks. Would you make quite sure that you answer this question truthfully. Was not it also the case that the prisoners whom you had on your truck were prisoners who could not walk? A. Some of the prisoners could not walk, but some of the prisoners belonged to the cookhouse personnel, and they stayed behind to help with the loading of the truck.
- Q. You have said that at the village of Grosshehlen the prisoners were hunted out on to the road after they halted there and that they were chased out by S.S. troops from the front line, who shot in the air. Were there any other occasions, as far as you know, when the prisoners were shot at by S.S. people? A. I was not with the transport during the journey. I was only with them when they stayed during the night.
- Q. Were there any occasions at night time, apart from Grosshehlen when the internees were shot at or shot by the S.S. guards? A. I have not heard anything like that.

Q. Again excluding Grosshehlen, do you know of any of the prisoners having been killed on this journey?

A. I do not know anything about it.

CAPT. NEAVE: No questions.

CAPT. PHILLIPS: No questions.

LT. BOYD: No questions.

CAPT. MUNRO: No questions.

LT. JEDRZEJOWICZ: No questions.

(The witness withdraws)

(At 1700 hours the Court is adjourned until 0930 hours tomorrow morning, 11th October 1945)